



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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Patrick Administration Announces \$439,000 to Relieve Coastal Pollution Grants Awarded to Seven Cape Cod and South Shore Communities

BOSTON – Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles today announced the award of \$439,000 in Coastal Pollution Remediation Grants to help seven shoreline communities tackle problems ranging from treating stormwater pollution to reducing ocean contamination caused by the dumping of boat waste.

The towns of Cohasset, Provincetown, Duxbury, Dennis, Brewster, Weymouth and Bourne were awarded grants through a competitive process that began in November. Funded projects were selected from a pool of 17 proposals.

Since 1996, the Coastal Pollutant Remediation Grant Program within EEA's Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) has provided more than \$5 million in grants to help communities improve water quality degraded by non-point source pollution. The leading cause of water quality impairment in the nation, non-point source pollution is caused when rainfall or snowmelt moves over and through the ground, picking up pollutants and depositing them into nearby coastal waters, rivers and bays. Grants also fund the design and installation of shoreside boat waste pump-out facilities, which are prerequisites for communities to consider establishing No Discharge Areas (NDA) where the dumping of any boat sewage – including treated waste – is prohibited.

"This grant program complements the Patrick Administration's goal of eventually designating all of Massachusetts state waters as a No Discharge Area," Secretary Bowles said. "The projects we're funding today bring the Commonwealth closer to that goal, while also bolstering efforts to curb non-point source pollution that threatens priceless natural resources along our coastline."

"Cities and towns across coastal Massachusetts continue to struggle with water quality contamination from both stormwater pollution and boat waste discharge," CZM Director Leslie-Ann McGee said. "Clean water is critical for the protection of coastal industries such as tourism and fishing, as well as the aesthetic quality of our rivers, beaches and bays. These grants allow CZM to provide critical funding and technical support to assist communities in protecting these vital coastal resources."

The following communities and projects received grants in this round of funding:

- **Cohasset - \$46,430** to design and install bioretention systems throughout the James Brook and Jacob's Meadow watershed to improve water quality of Cohasset Cove and Harbor. This work is part of a comprehensive effort to alleviate water quality and flooding issues that includes the Jacob's Meadow salt marsh restoration project, a priority project of CZM's Wetland Restoration Program.
- **Provincetown - \$93,800** for design and construction of a vessel sewage pump-out facility to serve commercial and recreational vessels in Provincetown Harbor. This project is essential for designation of an NDA in Cape Cod Bay.
- **Duxbury - \$118,699** for the final phase of an effort to curtail bacterial contamination to the Nook, a portion of Kingston Bay that is currently closed to shellfishing. At the completion of this project, CZM will encourage the town and the Division of Marine Fisheries to reassess the shellfish growing area.
- **Dennis - \$22,500** for design and construction of a vessel sewage pump-out facility at Sesuit Harbor. This project is essential for designation of an NDA in Cape Cod Bay.
- **Brewster - \$21,057** for the design and permitting of a series of best management practices to mitigate contaminated storm water discharges to Stony Brook, the Paines Creek estuary, and Cape Cod Bay.
- **Weymouth - \$25,930** to identify and design a series of stormwater management retrofits for Herring Brook, to mitigate impacts to downstream shellfish beds and improve habitat for fish that migrate and spawn in the Herring Brook watershed.
- **Bourne - \$110,692** to design and construct storm water best management practices to reduce bacterial contamination of Conservation Pond – the suspected cause of shellfish closures in Hen Cove, Buzzards Bay. At the completion of this project, CZM will encourage the town and Division of Marine Fisheries to reassess the shellfish growing area.

CZM expects to solicit applications for next year's Coastal Pollution Remediation Program Grants in August. Communities interested in developing proposals for the next grant round are encouraged to contact CZM Water Quality Program Coordinator, Jay Baker at (617) 626-1204, or to call one of CZM's regional Offices: (978) 281-3972 for the North Shore Office in Gloucester; (781) 545-8026, x 209 for the South Shore Office in Scituate; (508) 291-3625, x.20 for the South Coastal Office in East Wareham; and (508) 362-1760 for the Cape Cod and Islands Office in Barnstable.

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